

[Interview with Vito Cacciola #10]

Paper #10 Conn

1938-9 INTERVIEW WITH VITO CACCIOLA

By Merton R. Lovett

"As well as remembered"

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From Memory

"I have indeed got naturalized. I showa you de paper.

"When I geta de paper I feel proud. I say myself - this a my United States. I feel in my heart love for dis country. I say all men are free and have equality. I good as de next man. I hava chance to be rich, to be politico perhaps. Sometime I get disapoint.

"De constitution all right, but too many peoples unregard it. Dis country now is runa by crookers and gangsters. De make of de constitution a bigga joke.

"De laws is for de rich and de sinful men. Some more lika me live de pure life. What it getta them? What's de matter? What's de matter?

"You say, Mr. Lovett, that de peoples is to blame? De should vota for honest men? De should reforce de laws, putta teeth in them? De law hava teeth all right, but its lika dog, sick with de craziness, it bitta 2 de wrong peoples. Looka me. I playa de music good. In de

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night, when I no sleep, I playa de guitar. Do I playa jazz? Do I maka noise lika cook pans in de kitchen? Do I playa fortissimo? No! I play softer and sweeter. I play de fine music. I play lika de artist. And whata you tink? De policemen he say, 'Stopa! Stopa! you maka distrubance of de peace.' All de time de radio in de saloon maka noise twice so big. Is dere equality in dat Mr. Lovett?

"No, I thinka sometime no country in the world so corrupted as dis one. Everyday you read in de paper dat someone maka de steal and de graft. And do de lawyers put dem in de prisons? Not so you live.

"Possibil. Possibil. Maybe de newspapers does exgratudate - exaggerate - de wickedness. But if there was not so many crookers the papers woulda not have so many sins to printa.

"Mussolini? He fixa de grafters. If de Italian Mayor spoila his trust. Poof! Mussolini 3 maka new mayor quick. If de judge graba de bribe; he's pusha in prison and Mussolini slama de door. When Mussolini catcha de gangster, he begin saya his prayers.

"What maka you say, would I lika live in Sicily some more? I never go back, I American now. De relatives is mosta all dead. Sure dis country de best, but he's not so good as I hoped.

"Perhaps what you say, absence makes de heart grow fonder of. Looka it de snow. Hes colda and darka. In Sicily de sun make you needa no coat. Its so nicer den snow when de flowers make white de lemon trees. I wisha you could see it.

"No, I don't thinka de Italians is so richer as de peoples in de United States. Dis country hava much wealth. It hava more shops and machines to maka things.

"De trouble is dat de wealth is a not fairly restributed. Too many peoples is too poor. Some peoples is too rich.

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"You are a smarta man and educated, Mr. Lovett. You is poor. I is gooda man all my life. I is poor. De crookers and de gangsters is rich.

"I tink some day we may needa de revolution. If some men got so much greed, de keepa all money and no give de good peoples a chance, what we goina do?"